

5 1. A control device for authenticating the identification of a user prior to access to a software application, the control device comprising:

 a) a biometric signal acquisition module;

 b) an area on the acquisition device through which the biometric acquisition module may obtain the biometric signal of a user of the control device; and

10 c) a software interface for preventing access to a software application by unauthorized users.

5 3. A method for providing security to a network of computers, the method
comprising of steps of (a) obtaining base line biometric signals for all authorized users of a
network; (b) providing a biometric acquisition device at the location of each of the authorized
users; (c) obtaining a current biometric signal from an individual attempting to access the
network; (d) comparing the current biometric signal with the stored baseline biometric signal to
10 determine whether the current user is authorized to access the network; and (e) allowing access to
the network if the user is authorized.

 4. The method set forth in the claim 3 above further comprising the step of denying
access to the network if the current user is not authorized.

 5. The method set forth in the claim 3 above further comprising the step of storing
the biometric from an unauthorized user attempting to access the network and providing that
biometric to the manager of the network.